

The Orient.

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THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

After an interval of a year, nine months and nine days, the Ottoman Parliament is again in session. The formal opening took place with the usual ceremony on Thursday last, the first of May old style. It was a less exciting opening than that of April 18th, 1912, when the Italian fleet was bombarding the Dardanelles as a salute to the commencement of the legislature; and it was a less joyous beginning than that of the first Parliament, in December of 1908. But the deputies seem to have come together for business, and are ready for solid work. If all the bills prepared for this two-months' session are to be attended to before the summer recess, they realize that there is little time to lose.

Animation reigned at the Parliament Building at Fındıklı from early morn, and by shortly after noon the streets in the vicinity began to fill up with Turkish women and onlookers. Troops soon lined the approaches to the building, and before two the Deputies had commenced to arrive. By half-past two, the diplomatic and press benches and the seats for guests were well filled. The Deputies took their places, and the Senate marched in in a body, most impressive in their uniforms and insignia. At a quarter to three, the Grand Vizier and the Cabinet, with the Sheikh-ül-Islam, filed into their ministerial bench. His Imperial Majesty the Sultan arrived at three, with a salvo of guns from the yacht "Samboul," anchored opposite the Parliament. Following him were the Heir-Presumptive, Prince Yousouf Izzeddin, and the Imperial Princes Valideddin and Salaheddin Effendis, with the high officials of the Court.

The Speech from the Throne was then read by the Sultan's first secretary, and was listened to in respectful silence by all the members standing. A summary of the Speech will be found elsewhere in this number. At its close, the *Nakib-ül-eshrif* recited a prayer, and His Majesty then saluted the assembly and left on his return to the palace.

When the Chamber was called to order, the temporary secretary read Article 46 of the Constitution, concerning the swearing-in of new deputies, and the Grand Vizier called upon all the deputies to take the oath of allegiance. The Grand Vizier then withdrew, and the senior deputy, Riza Pasha of Afion Kara Hissar, took the chair. Elections followed for provisional officers. Riza Pasha was elected temporary President by 174 votes out of 194; Emir Ali Pasha of Damascus, an Arab, vice-president. Until the permanent officers are selected, the four youngest members of the House act as secretaries. The division of the Chamber into five sections for

the transaction of business took place. These bureaux act as committees on the various forms of business to come up before the Chamber after they have considered each bill.

The first session was then closed, the next to be on Monday.

2nd Session, May 18th. The Chamber met for less than an hour this afternoon under the presidency of the provisional president, Riza Pasha, for the confirmation of the election of members. The examining committee reported favorably in the case of 172 deputies, and these elections were forthwith validated, no discussion arising on any case, save that the president proposed that the full report of the committee on each case be read, and the Chamber decided that this formality was unnecessary. The president, however, insisted that voting must be by show of hands, and not merely by saying *kaboul*, - accepted; - and when members did not vote, he refused to call the vote unanimous. Thus he is trying to train the deputies to parliamentary action. As for the confirmation of the remaining sixty or so elections, this will probably be done at the next session.

The Senate met last Saturday, under the presidency of Rifaat Bey, who delivered a eulogy on the four senators who have died since the Senate last sat. Abdulhak Hamid Bey and Nouri Bey were elected secretaries of the Senate, and the Commissions to prepare the Reply to the Speech from the Throne, on Requests, on Bills, and on the Constitution were selected. The next session it was agreed should be convoked when the Reply to the Speech should be ready for presentation.

NOTICE.

There are in the keeping of the Librarian of the Mission Library at the Bible House extra bound volumes of the *Missionary Herald* for the years 1829, 1831, and from 1872 to 1893 inclusive, except the numbers for 1886 and 1891. These are at the disposal of anyone or of any institution wishing to complete their sets. Of the copies from 1881 to 1885 there are several bound volumes for each year. Any desirous of securing one or more of the volumes can do so by communicating with

THE LIBRARIAN,

W. T. M. LIBRARY,

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

As the translation into English of the Speech would occupy nearly four pages of this paper if given in full, we furnish our readers here simply a résumé of its most important features.

His Majesty begins by referring to the Imperial order for the closing of Parliament in August 1912, and the changes and disorders that made the new elections impossible up to this auspicious day.

"The attack of enemies on all sides while our country was at the same time engaged in war with Italy and undergoing an internal crisis, put our empire in the most difficult situation. Since the proclamation of the Constitution we had been working hard to repair the damage to the army caused by the destructive past, and to thoroughly equip and furnish it for any possible attack. To our infinite pain and surprise we saw our army defeated and our children carried away captive or driven famished and miserable to the gates of the Capital. I immediately ordered the convening of a high court-martial, which I firmly hope will succeed in establishing the causes of this disaster and disorganization, and mete out exemplary punishment on the guilty.

"After the heroic resistance at Chatalja, an armistice was signed and the negotiations carried on in London. Finally the Great Powers by a Note on Jan. 17th, 1912, proposed that the city of Adrianople be ceded, and the lot of the Aegean Islands be left to them under condition that the safety of Anatolia be taken into consideration. The Sublime Porte decided to accede, when Kiamil Pasha fell from power and Mahmoud Shevket Pasha was made Grand Vizier in his place. At this our enemies broke off the armistice and hostilities were renewed. In the second war the valor and energetic resistance of our fortresses showed the world that our nation had preserved the masculine virtues inherited from our ancestors. But Mahmoud Shevket Pasha, in the midst of his energies, fell a victim to a perfidious plot. Negotiations for peace still went on, and we were bringing up the army to the highest efficiency, when our allied foes began to fight one another. Our Imperial troops advanced, drove the enemy from the shores of the Marmora, and it was granted them to retake Adrianople. The moral consequences of this happy event were more important than its material advantages. When the ardor, discipline and speed of our armies during the retaking of Adrianople had shown that under good leaders the Ottoman army is still ready, as always, to do its duty for the country, hope and confidence returned at home and abroad.

"The lot of the islands of the Archipelago had been entrusted to the Powers on their promise to keep in mind the security of Anatolia. But a note sent later by the Powers to our Sublime Porte gave us the sad news that the islands most necessary to our peace and tranquillity were abandoned to Greece. Our Government replied showing why it was impossible to accept this decision and saying that we should do all we could do obtain our rights. I hope the question may

be solved peaceably in conformity with our view of our essential interests.

"Undoubtedly Italy will soon restore the islands which the Treaty of Lausanne has obliged her to evacuate and give back to us.

"It has been found necessary to establish a strict inspection of the Vilayets so as to secure their quiet and development. Six zones of inspection have thus been established, and an inspector-general is to be appointed for each. I hope this organization will bear good fruit for the prosperity of the country.

"Concessions have been granted for railroads that will give the Vilayets a new life. These are the ones from Sam-soun to Sivas, Harpout, Argana, Bitlis and Van; Erzinjan to Pakeridj; Rayak to Ramleh; and Smyrna to Dardanelles; and negotiations are in progress as to those from Angora to Cæsarea and Oulou-Kishla, Cæsarea to Sivas, and Avouza to Diarbekir and Argana, etc. Harbors are to be constructed at Jaffa, Tripoli (Syria), Heraclea, Ineboli and Haifa.

"We must rehabilitate our army, and build a strong navy; and I desire the Nation to help in this in a spirit of sacrifice. To secure the advance of army and navy, we have brought out foreign chiefs and officers, and the specialists asked for in other departments are arriving. This should be a proof of our desire for the reform of our provinces.

"The financial state of our Empire has been deeply affected by the two years of war; yet the increased receipts even during this troubled period justify the best hopes for the future. With the friendly help of the French Government an important loan has been concluded in Paris, to pay the floating debt contracted during the war. This loan strengthens the credit of the Empire. In the budget for 1330 much care has been shown in reducing expenses, but the desired equilibrium has been impossible. I ask you to be most careful to avoid adopting any measures that would make this equilibrium the more difficult. We are negotiating with certain great Powers as to new sources of revenue. With France we have reached an agreement, and almost so with England, and hope soon to be successful with Germany and Russia also. These will make it easier to balance our budget for the next year.

"Our foreign relations, based on the principle of safeguarding our rights while respecting those of others, give us cordial relations with the friendly Powers, and the situation is improving. The war is over, and diplomatic relations have been resumed with the neighboring Powers. The Commission on the Persian Boundary delimitation is at work on the ground.

"There is absolute need of a perfect equilibrium between the legislative and the executive; and I desire that your Chamber give its attention above all to the necessary constitutional modifications regarding this; also that it study and ratify as soon as possible the budget law, the treaties of peace, the provisional laws and the other bills that will be submitted to your consideration."

THE KALFAKEUY TROUBLE.

Last week the Greek village of Kalfakeuy, near Makrikeuy, outside of the Capital, was approached by a large number of Moslem refugees, presumably from Macedonia. The villagers feared that they were intending to seize their village and expel them, so they prepared to resist any violent treatment. The expected attack came at night, and the forces of the refugees proved too strong for the Greeks. Some houses were set on fire in various parts of the village, and the inhabitants, after an unequal struggle during which blood was shed on both sides, fled to Yedi Koule and to Makrikeuy, leaving their houses to the attackers. The accounts given by the official despatches do not in every respect tally with this. The Patriarchate has made complaint to the Government regarding the incident, and has received assurances that justice will be done; but so far there seems little evidence that the property of the villagers will be restored to them.

This kind of exchange of Greeks and Moslems is what is going on in many parts of Thrace. The Turkish authorities insist that the treatment their co-religionists in Macedonia are receiving at the hands of the Hellenes is even worse; but the Hellenic Government indignantly denies this. Far be it from us to judge as between these friendly powers. The migration of Greeks from Turkey and of Turks and Bulgarians from Greece and from Servia, with all its sad accompaniment of suffering and injustice, is one of the after-consequences of the war. A characteristically suggestive telegram appeared in the local papers of last week:—"The village of Bairamitch, in the Dardanelles district, inhabited exclusively by 500 Servians, has been evacuated by these persons. Some Moslem refugees have been installed there. All the Serbs have been repatriated in Old Servia. The last interview of M. Georgevitch, Servian Chargé d'Affaires with Talaat Bey, Minister of the Interior, had to do with this subject."

The *Tasfiri Efkiar* gives the report of Captain Feizi Bey, who was sent to Kalfakeuy to investigate the affair there with a detachment of 50 men. He says that all the Greek peasants, including the priest of the village, have declared to him that on the night of May 13th at dinner-time they heard the firing of guns and saw the flames, which showed them that the Moslem refugees had invaded their village. They therefore scattered to the fields to escape. Feizi Bey says in his report that the absolute identity of the testimony of the Greek villagers proves that they had previously agreed to present the affair in this light(!). On the other hand, adds Feizi Bey, an attack by the Moslems, had it taken place, as the villagers assert, could not have resulted in the murder of two Moslems. The report qualifies the incidents at Kalfakeuy as a comedy; and concludes that these Greeks, like all those of Thrace, were preparing a week earlier to leave their village and migrate to Macedonia. The court-martial has taken up the affair and five Greeks have been arrested as guilty of having provoked the incidents in question.

THE BITLIS EVENTS.

A letter from Mr. Maynard dated April 28th says:—

The events of the uprising created a diversion in some ways. We had a decidedly exciting moving picture show all day the second of April. This morning my barber used double time in cutting my hair while he related what happened within the "enemies'" lines where his house is located. He says that he gave ten batmans of bread to the "invaders." This shows that the Kourds were not prepared for anything. A general uprising requiring marching from place to place would be quite impossible. I have supposed that two hundred or three hundred outsiders came in. He says 4,000. He says the mountain side was covered with them lying down, so that not a "finger's space of earth remained uncovered." All these men were *unarmed*, waiting for their armed friends to take the arsenal that they might be armed. Another sign of weakness. The mountain on whose side they were lying divides one valley in the city from the main part of the city. The Kourds were on the back side of this mountain.

A poor pussy playing on the mountain side near the crest, supposed the singing bullets were flies. In springing up to catch them she was shot, and returned to her home only to die.

Mollah Selim had said that he could stop the bullets by holding up his hands. He came among the fighters about noon. Not until his arrival was a Kourd killed. But just after he came, two were killed, which rather made the Kourds doubt his miraculous powers.

AFION KARA HISSAR VISITED.

Dear Editor:—

We have had some happy Sundays, made so by the visits of good angels. On the 17th of April, our Easter Day, we had with us from Smyrna Rev. J. R. Brewster, Miss Pinneo and Miss Olympia Yeranian. On the 26th of April we had another party, Mr. and Mrs. Harlow and their dear friends from America, Mrs. H. Roswell Bates and Mrs. Charles Rhodes; also Mr. Gulbenkian was with us. Every one of them did something for our church and for our school boys, which will make us always remember them. The good ladies gave us six pounds to be spent in some way for the Church; and Mr. and Mrs. Harlow gave orders for the painting of the inside of the church, and will pay the cost.

Then on the 3rd of May we had Mr. E. O. Jacob with us, who spoke three times on Sunday. We were glad to have him with us. He started on Monday for Constantinople.

We hope that other friends, who know and hear about these visits, will desire to come to us also. We met our dear Mr. W.W. Peet at the station and asked him to spend a day with us, but he said he was unable to stay longer on the way.

H. S. YERANIAN.

THE SYRIAN PROTESTANT COLLEGE.

We have said our good byes, drawn long breaths, and have resumed a normal existence. We have had a series of delightful visits. First came Ambassador Morgenthau and Mrs. and Miss Morgenthau and Mr. Peet and Mr. Schmavonian. I can not relate all they did; it is not my province; but I do wish to say that the reception given to the ambassadorial party in the magnificent Common Room of West Hall was brilliant. All of the senior classes in all departments were invited, as well as the members of the American and British communities. The College band played on the porch and the orchestra led the singing inside. Previous to the reception Mr. Morgenthau delivered a lecture on "True Manhood" in the auditorium of West Hall that filled that great hall. The public were invited and there was a large attendance other than students. The Hebrew Society "Kadima" also entertained Mr. Morgenthau with a reception and addresses. Mr. Schmavonian gave an interesting address to the Armenian Literary Society.

And then Mr. and Mrs. Morgenthau returned the compliment by inviting the members of the College staff and the American community to an afternoon tea on board the "Scorpion." It was a delightful afternoon. We all wish that the "Scorpion" might visit us more often. The Staff showed the crew of the "Scorpion" how to play the national game. It would not be kind to mention the score.

And then before we had put aside our company manners and clothes the "Alberta," chartered by Mrs. Kennedy, came into the harbor and we of "the old guard" had the pleasure of renewing old friendships and making new ones with the members of her party. Rev. Dr. Schauffler preached one Sunday morning in the College chapel, and Rev. Dr. Halsey preached in the Anglo-American church and in the evening at the vesper service at the college. President Mac Lachlan was forced to his feet one afternoon at chapel and gave us one of his pithy and witty little addresses. And Dr. Jowett arrived from his pilgrimage through the Holy Land in time to give an address at afternoon prayers to the students and many of the college community that will long be a memory and an inspiration.

Another afternoon tea on the "Alberta" was a joy that compensated for many days of drudgery. It was a perfect delight.

And then came Lord and Lady Bryce. "A man of Dr. Post's type," many of us said, and when he spoke, as he did at prayers one afternoon, and at his lecture in West Hall, the impression was deepened. President and Mrs. Bliss gave a reception to the American and British community at Marquand House which gave us an opportunity to meet our distinguished visitors socially, and on another evening the largest audience that has yet been in West Hall auditorium heard with deep interest his lecture, which was really, as he said in his introduction, a series of observations, most interesting to students, teachers and the general public.

Lord Bryce was free to say that he believed that the Syrian Protestant College was doing a great work for the Ottoman Empire, and regretted that the authorities did not avail themselves more of the services of the young men trained in it.

Two deputies to the Imperial Parliament have addressed the students. The first was Mr. Faris Khury, one of the deputies for Damascus. He graduated at S. P. C. in 1897 and taught in his Alma Mater several years. He gave a ringing speech, eloquent with the praises of the training given at S. P. C. and he urged his hearers to make the most of the opportunities before them and to use their talents for their country. Mr. Selim Selam, one of the deputies for Beirut, addressed a most enthusiastic audience in West Hall on May 7th on "True Patriotism." He was most cordially received and his address was fervid with eloquence. We have not lacked for oratory, and good oratory, too.

Music, also, has soothed and delighted us. On Wednesday evening, May 6th, the Beirut Choral Society gave a concert in West Hall. The acoustic properties of the auditorium are so perfect that the concert was held there rather than in the Assembly Hall, where it has been given in past years. A varied program was presented. The notable features were the full choruses, the men's double quartet and the piano playing of Miss Curtis of the American School for Girls, accompanied by Mr. Willett. The proceeds are given to the Dorcas Society.

W. B. A.

FAVRE BOYS' HOME.

May I add a few words about the loving reception given to the Chamberses in their old Home? As Mr. McNaughton said, the Boys' Home Scouts formed a guard of honor with flags and marching songs, and their discipline drew many compliments from the spectators.

Next morning there was a little ceremony in the Kennedy Technical School, which was now seen for the first time by him whose name it bears. It has lately received a fuller equipment and all the distinguished visitors seemed much pleased at the neat rows of tools arranged so that each boy can be responsible for his own set. Mr. Hume made a short speech of welcome and Dr. Chambers and Dr. Kennedy responded in their usual sympathetic and encouraging way. On Saturday night the Home gave its Reception to our friends in our school Hall which was prettily decorated. The singing showed evidences of Mr. Galley's careful training in precision and expression. Addresses were made and responded to and the impression left by the whole evening was that of a father and mother returned to their children, the air teeming with memories of kindnesses received.

The too short stay in Bardizag terminated by the old-time picnic in honor of Dr. Chambers' birthday where everyone enjoyed himself and his neighbor. From the breezy knoll we sent off the "Happy Pair" whom we hope soon to see again in our midst.

S. N.

THE ORIENT

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Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Constantinople.

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE.

MAY 20, 1914.

EDITORIAL.

The Department of Public Health of the Ottoman Empire has just decided that hereafter the marriageable age for residents in European and Asiatic Turkey shall be 18 years for boys and 14 years for girls; while in the warmer regions of Arabia and Syria, the limit is two years younger in each case. As the *Sheriat*, or sacred law, fixes the limit for girls at nine years, this new rule is a great advance in the right direction. Dr. Yaghoubian, of the Bulgarian Hospital in this city, has come out with a strong article in the daily press setting forth the dangers of early marriage and the desirability of all uniting to prevent all such folly. Would that all who have any influence with the ignorant in this land would do their best to instruct them on this subject. What boy of eighteen is capable of undertaking the responsibility of a family? What girl of fourteen has any right to become a wife and mother? The school is the place for them both!

The decree closing Parliament in August 1912 was accompanied by an Imperial command that new elections be held so that the next session of Parliament might be held the following November. But November found the Ottoman army at Chatalja, hard pressed by the Bulgarians. That memorable seventeenth day of November, when we heard the boom of cannon all day long and when the populace was nearly distracted from fear lest it should happen, — it all comes vividly to mind. No parliament could then be assembled. No one knew what constituencies had lost their right to representation and whether there would be any Ottoman Empire in Europe at all any more. Those dark days have passed, and last Thursday saw a new opening of the Chamber and of the Senate. The legislators took their places with a full realization that they had come to do the Nation's business; and we trust this session of Parliament may prove the most productive the country has yet seen. This third

Chamber since the restoration of the Constitution is made up of men many of whom have had previous experience in legislative work, and most of whom are well able to understand the country's needs. There is need of much constructive legislation. Never before have such conditions faced the national leaders. And all friends of the Ottoman Empire will unite their prayers that the requisite wisdom may be given its lawmakers and that this third session may be the best yet.

With the passing of Mrs. Sanford Richardson another veteran's name is transferred to the roll above. We believe the honor of being the oldest missionary of our Board in this part of the world, — or in all the world, for that matter, — belongs to Dr. James F. Clarke of Sofia, who arrived in Smyrna in July, 1859. But there are least ten others whose terms of service began before his and who are still living, though not now under appointment of the Board. These are, in order of appointment, Mrs. Isaac Bliss, who reached Turkey Aug. 24, 1847; Mrs. Edward M. Dodd, who reached Turkey Feb. 23, 1849; Mrs. J. E. Parsons, June 24, 1850; Dr. D. H. Nutting, who came to Smyrna with Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, Sept. 25, 1854; Rev. O. P. Allen, Dec. 9, 1855; Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Bliss, Jan. 22, 1856; Dr. George Washburn, Aug. 15, 1858, and Mrs. Washburn, April 15, 1859; Rev. J. K. Greene, Feb. 22, 1859. There is also Miss Myra A. Proctor, who came out with Dr. Clarke, in July, 1859. All these with the exception of Mr. Allen and Dr. and Mrs. Bliss, are now in America. We wonder whether any other mission field can show such a record list of veterans. Turkey is not a country with a bad climate; but the hardships through which these persons passed during their residence in this land were such that it must be counted of God's mercy that they were permitted to live through them all. The average term of actual service in this land of these ten persons is over forty-one years. Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Baird at Samokov in her bereavement.

RAMLEH CONVENTION.

All Christian workers living in Asia Minor and Constantinople who expect to attend the Conference to be held in Victoria College, Ramleh, near Alexandria, August 4th to 12th, 1914, are requested kindly to send their names at once to the Secretary for Asia Minor,

Prof. C. W. LAWRENCE,

International College, Smyrna, Turkey.

CALENDAR OF ENGLISH PREACHING SERVICES.

Sunday, May 24th, 1914.

BEBEK CHURCH, 11 a. m. Rev. Charles T. Riggs.

UNION CHURCH, Pera, 11 a. m., Rev. Robert Frew.

ROBERT COLLEGE, 11 a. m., Rev. A. van Millingen, D.D.

CONSTANTINOPLE COLLEGE, 11 a. m., Member of Faculty.

MRS. R. A. RICHARDSON.

Entered into rest, April 20, 1914, at Boulder, Colorado, Mrs. Rhoda Ann (Scott) Richardson, widow of Rev. Sanford Richardson, formerly of the Eastern and Western Turkey Missions, in the 87th year of her age.

Mrs. Richardson was of pioneer stock. Her maternal grand-parents were home-missionaries in Kentucky, and were killed by Indians. Her paternal ancestors were from North Carolina. Her parents emigrated from Kentucky into Central Illinois, where she was born in Pleasant Grove, Tazewell County, on Jan. 19, 1828. She was married in 1848 to Sanford Richardson, who after his marriage, took a Theological Course and was ordained a foreign missionary. They sailed in August, 1854, with one child on the brig "Racehorse" which made the quick passage, for that time, of 42 days from Boston to Smyrna. They were first located in Erzroum, and were there during the Crimean War. The hero of the siege of Kars, Gen. W. F. Williams, was a frequent visitor at their home, and later on the booming of cannon in connection with that siege was often heard. In 1856 they were transferred to Arabkir, to which place they had a perilous journey. The *maffa* horse, bearing Mrs. R. and two children, slipped and fell on a mountain side, resulting in the smashing of the *maffas*. The baby was found under the *maffa*, but no one was seriously hurt. They resided in Arabkir, associated for some years with the late Rev. G. A. Pollard and wife, until 1865, when they took their first furlough. On their return to Turkey in 1866, they settled in Brousa, associated first with Rev. and Mrs. Benjamin Schneider, and later with Rev. and Mrs. J. K. Greene, and Miss U. C. Clarke, now Mrs. G. D. Marsh. On the opening of a Girls' School in Kaya Bashi, Brousa, under the care of Miss Rappleye, they removed to that quarter of the city. Preaching to the Turkish speaking Greeks was carried on until Mr. Richardson's health failed, and they left Brousa in 1879. After a sojourn in St. Johnsbury, Vt., the family went to Cazenovia, Ill., where after seven years of suffering Mr. Richardson finished his course. Mrs. Richardson resided in Beloit, Hayward and Lady Smith, Wis., with her oldest son. The later years of her life were spent in Boulder, Colorado, with her youngest son.

Mrs. Richardson was a woman of strong personality, and her eventful life was full of stirring incidents. Never in vigorous health, yet she always took an active part in all forms of missionary work while on the foreign field, and since her retirement she has kept in touch with current events. She retained all her faculties, except hearing, until the very last.

Mrs. Richardson was the mother of nine children: five preceded her to the better land, four in infancy, and one in young manhood. Four still remain, Mrs. J. W. Baird of Samokov, Bulgaria; Rev. D. A. Richardson of Milwaukee, Wis.; Rev. H. M. Richardson of Boulder, Colorado, and Miss Mary T. Richardson of Minneapolis, Minn. and also eleven grand-

children. Of these, two children, Mrs. J. W. Baird and Rev. D. A. Richardson followed their parents into the foreign field, also three grand-children, the Misses Agnes, Clara and Emma Baird, Mrs. Baird and Miss Agnes Baird are still in the service of the Board.

E. R. B.

VISIT OF THE GERMAN ADMIRAL.

The battle-cruiser "Goeben," with Vice-Admiral Suchon of the German navy on board, arrived in the Bosphorus on Friday last. The Admiral is in command of the German Mediterranean Squadron, of which the "Goeben" is the flagship. The representative of the Sultan went on board as soon as the cruiser had come to anchor, and saluted the Admiral. Later the Admiral went ashore and visited the German Embassy and Consulate. In the evening there was a reception for him by the German colony at the Teutonia. Saturday Admiral Suchon was received by His Majesty the Sultan, and Sunday the Sultan gave him a dinner at the palace. Monday evening he was dined at the German Embassy.

The "Goeben" is a cruiser of 24,000 tons displacement, 617 feet long, with an equipage of 1050 men. It has a speed of 28.6 knots, and carries ten 11-inch guns, twelve 6-inch guns, and four torpedo-tubes. It has been rumored that the German Government wishes to sell this unit to Turkey; but we have not been able to verify this, and think it extremely doubtful.

CONSTANTINOPLE COLLEGE.

The first lecture in Gould Hall was given by Sir Edwin Pears on Wednesday May 6th. A very large and very enthusiastic audience gathered to hear of what Constantinople has done for the world. Sir Edwin made his hearers feel as never before the distinct benefits that have been bestowed on other lands and on succeeding ages, by this city,—first in religion by its formulating and strengthening the belief in *one* God, second by its forming a barrier against the barbarian hordes that swept over Asia, third, by its great Justinian code of law, and fourth by the commerce of Constantinople that united East and West.

Sir Edwin's authority as a historian and his clear presentment of these points made an appeal to everyone's interest and added materially to the great debt of gratitude which the College owes to him.

The Sunday following Dr. Schauffler preached such a sermon to the students of Constantinople College as will be long remembered, and was keenly enjoyed.

On Monday afternoon the first athletic meet was held on our new College grounds. First, under the flickering shadows of the chestnut grove, the students in their gymnastic suits marched and gave various exercises, showing a quick response to the word of command and a tense and eager interest in their work that spoke well for the character-developing training they have had. The judges were Mr. and Mrs. Weiffenbach of Robert College, Miss Morgenthau and Miss

Moore. Her Excellency Mrs. Morgenthau presented a silver cup to the Junior class, as having won the greatest number of events. President Patrick made a speech congratulating the College and Miss Weir on the great progress made in physical education in the last two years since Miss Weir came to us. She also spoke of the great inspiration we have received from outside. Mrs. Ravndal the wife of our Consul-General began more than a year ago to express her interest in physical education, and since the coming of our new Ambassador we have received help and encouragement from both Mrs. Morgenthau and Mrs. Ravndal.

President Patrick closed with deep regret that Miss Weir was leaving us, but looking forward hopefully to her return after that period, and proposed three cheers for Miss Weir which were given most heartily.

The audience then adjourned to the Maze, where they saw a capital game of Basket Ball between two picked teams — the Red and the Green. Mrs. Weiffenbach umpired, and when, after a well contested game, the Reds won, Mrs. Ravndal gave a second silver cup to them, with the promise that the team that won three years in succession should permanently own the cup.

On Thursday the College was visited by a delegate from the Dar-ül-Mouallimat, and a representative of the Evkaf who are proposing to erect a new building for the Turkish Girls' Normal School in Stamboul. They went over our buildings, expressing the greatest delight in everything and at every new room they saw the gentleman from the Evkaf said: "We will have ours just like that." They had an architect with them, and measured and investigated most carefully each piece of apparatus, and each convenience. We hope that they will be able to model their new buildings on ours.

I. F. D.

CALENDAR OF NOTEWORTHY DATES.

May 21, 1914, Ascension Day.

- 22, 1869, Rev. Jonas King, D.D., Beirut and Athens, died.
- 1910, Miss Corinna Shattuck, Ourfa, died.
- 1910, Sunday School parade, Constantinople.
- 23, 1826, Rev. Eli Smith embarked from Boston for Syria.
- 24, 1803, Mr. Homan Hallock, Malta and Smyrna, born.
- 1817, Queen Victoria born.
- 25, 1823, Mr. and Mrs. Jonas King arrived in Jerusalem.
- 1878, Translation of Turkish Bible finished.
- 26, 1867, Queen Mary of England born.
- 27, 1800, Rev. James L. Thompson, Beirut and Cyprus, born.
- 1844, Rev. and Mrs. H. J. van Lennep arrived in Constantinople.
- 1860, Outbreak of Druse Massacre.

THE NEW EVKAF MUSEUM IN STAMBOUL.

On Monday, April 27th, the new museum of the Ministry of Evkaf was opened in the presence of the Heir Apparent and of many Turkish notabilities. It is well worth visiting, for, though the collection contained therein is small, it is choice and has been well selected. As guidebooks, however modern, do not contain any mention whatever of the contents of the majority of the provincial Tekkés and of the libraries and other institutions administered by the Ministry, or, I should say, by the Departments of the Evkaf which have contributed of their store to the new museum, I may be pardoned for devoting some attention to the exhibits of the new museum. First, there is an excellent collection of exquisitely bound and illuminated Korans, which is alone worth visiting. Next there are some carpets of very great antiquity, dating indeed from the later Seljuk period, which must be of great interest to all lovers of Turkish and Persian art. There are a few good pieces of glass, celadon, and porcelain, the latter including some of the earliest examples of Kütahia ware, and a very fine Ming vase, obviously made for the Near Eastern market. The collection of illustrated manuscripts, if small, is very good. There are some attractive examples of brass-work; and finally there is a fascinating collection of historical relics. Among these last are the robes and other personal belongings of Sultana Khurrem, better known to Western historians as Roxalana, the Russian slave whom Süleiman the Magnificent took to wife; the dresses of the luckless male children of the Imperial family who were strangled by order of each Sultan as he came to the throne for "reasons of state;" the shirt of Sultan Selim II. which Hüssein Hilmi Pasha recovered after it had been carried off by a Russian volunteer when Adrianople fell; a sleeved blue and white garment whereon the whole of the Koran has been written; the orange-sleeved shirt of Bayazid, "the Thunderbolt," brought from his cenotaph at Brousa, a garment which is also inscribed with the whole Koran, no doubt as a talisman against danger in battle. There are some who contest the authenticity of this relic, and say that Timour the Tartar, after he inflicted the most dreadful defeat that the Turks have suffered on Bayazid, took the personal effects of the captured Sultan with him to Central Asia, and that there is no proof whatsoever that he restored any of his trophies to the House of Osman after Bayazid's death. Yet it does not follow that the relic may not have belonged to the great fighting Sultan, even if it were not worn by him at Angora and may not have clothed his iron frame at Kossovo or Nicopolis. May I recommend all to see this interesting and beautiful collection, which is within fifty yards of the Süleimanieh Mosque; and may I express the hope that Hairi Bey, to whose initiative the formation of this collection is due, may command that the labels and descriptions of each exhibit be written in French as well as in Turkish.

— The Near East.

HOW ABOUT AN OPPOSITION PARTY?

The *Tanin* says editorially:—

"As fast as the results of the elections were announced in the papers, many people kept asking: 'How many opposition deputies will there be this year among those elected?' The nearer the day approached for the opening of Parliament, the more was this question repeated. And we are sure that people gazed right and left on the first of May in the Chamber to seek an answer to that question. In fact, a large number of persons have the conviction that this time there will not be any considerable Opposition in Parliament. It is true that before the elections are confirmed and before the Deputies have an opportunity to express their views on fundamental questions, and before the parties find themselves, nothing positive can be said on the subject. But one has a right to suppose that the number of deputies who will be resolved to oppose without discussion every proposition of the Government or of the party in the majority, will this year be very insignificant. Is this good or bad?"

"The *Temps*, in the course of some edifying and appreciative remarks on our parliament, criticizes it because the Opposition is so feeble. As a matter of fact this feebleness may be considered a fault by a French brain, accustomed to the French Parliament and trained to the various social and political principles which are discussed in general elections.

"But we believe there is no one who does not recognize that our need is to organize a Parliament according to our own needs, and not according to those of Europeans, especially when we have in view the evils provoked during the first years of the Constitution in the name of an Opposition."

REORGANIZATION IN THE OTTOMAN ARMY.

Mention has been made of the scattering of the Ottoman army in various parts of the Empire, enlarging the garrisons at many points. This is part of a comprehensive scheme of decentralization for the army, by which the service of recruits shall hereafter be more local than previously, the troops in a province being largely if not wholly men from that province. The reasons for this are evident; but the army authorities have as part of their scheme the temporary releasing of the men during the rush of sowing and harvesting seasons, so that they may go to their farms and do the work, returning easily to the barracks or camp after a definite period.

There is also a plan on foot to have the soldiers enabled to attend courses in agriculture during their term of service, at various agricultural schools scattered through the country. This is part of a more elaborate idea by which the troops are to receive regular intellectual training in camp. It has long been felt by the educational authorities that the Arabic alphabet as at present used for the writing of Turkish is too difficult for the average grown man to learn, for even children find it hard. Most of the thirty-two or thirty-three letters have three or four separate forms, according as they are

used at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of a word, or standing alone. This makes practically an alphabet of over a hundred characters. And even so, the sounds do not correspond well with the letters, any more than in English; so that for example, *y* may stand for *o*, *ou*, *eu*, *ü*, or *v*. To facilitate the teaching of reading and writing in the army, the War Department has adopted and is using a so-called simplified alphabet, of thirty-six letters, each printed separately and not linked with each other, and each representing a distinct sound. A newspaper is being printed in these new characters now, the *Yeni Yazı*, to give the system a fair trial. And it is the official system of the army as well, and the soldiers are required to learn and use it. The experiment is well worth watching.

EMPIRE NEWS.

THE CAPITAL.

Sir William and Lady Ramsay arrived last week from England on their return to Yalovatch (Antioch in Pisidia) where they will continue excavations.

Mr. Alfred Stocker, who is to assist Mr. E. O. Jacob in the Y.M.C.A. work as Office Secretary at Constantinople, reached here from Switzerland last Monday and began his new duties.

His Majesty the Sultan has been pleased to confer on the visiting German Admiral Suchon the grand cordon of the Medjidié; and on the Commander of the "Goeben" the rank of Grand Officer of the Medjidié.

Alfred Rustem Bey, the new Ottoman Ambassador Washington, has been decorated with the grand cordon of the Order of the Medjidié.

Four French officers recently engaged for the reorganization of the Ottoman gendarmerie under General Baumann Pasha, have reached the Capital.

KINDERGARTEN TRAINING

Miss Cole of Trebizond will open a Training class for Kindergarten teachers on Sep. 14th. Only full pay scholars, and those who know English well, need apply. For particulars address

MISS N. A. COLE, AMERICAN MISSION, TREBIZOND.

The band of the German cruiser "Goeben" gave a concert Friday in the Seraglio Point Park, and Sunday in the Taksim public garden.

Nearly 100 Ottoman students and professors have gone to Roumania to visit the universities at Jassy and Bucharest. They chartered the two-funneled steamer "Gül Jemal" to convey them to Constanza.

The daughters of the French and German Ambassadors have each received the second class decoration of the Shefakat, in recognition of their services to the Red Crescent Society.

THE PROVINCES

The American School for Girls in Beirût, the St. George's School for Moslem and Druze girls and the Sûq-ul-Gharb Boys' Academy gratefully remember the visit of Mrs. Kennedy to Beirût. The gifts were most timely.

The S. P. C. foot ball and tennis teams journeyed to Jerusalem in the Easter vacation, and at Jaffa defeated the best team of the Jaffa Tennis Club, and in Jerusalem won two games and lost two games of foot ball. And they had a royal good time with it all.

A severe fire is reported at Tokat, which destroyed 85 shops, 45 houses, 3 hans, and an Armenian school. A loss of ten lives is also reported.

NOTES.

Mrs. George E. White of Marsovan and her friend Miss Merrill arrived from France on Monday morning on their way to Marsovan.

Mr. Paul Schearrer, of the S. P. C., who was shot in the back by the Bedawin in Galilee, is making steady progress towards recovery.

Mr. Edwin Carter Adams, of Beirût, has been appointed valedictorian of his class at Peekskill Military Academy; and Mr. Harold Hoskins, also of Beirût, was alternate on the Freshman debating team at Princeton.

Mrs. Violet Bond Kennedy, who came to attend the annual Meeting of the Balkan Mission, was prostrated by typhoid fever, soon after her arrival in Samokov. She has recovered sufficiently to join in Sofia her husband, the Rev. P. B. Kennedy, who has been undergoing an operation in that city. They hope soon to return to their work in Albania.

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OTHER LANDS.

Dr. David Starr Jordan of Leland Stanford University, and Dr. Metz, member of the Peace Commission, also Mr. Holman a graduate of Leland Stanford University, and holding a Rhodes Scholarship, paid a flying visit to Samokov. Both Dr. Jordan and Dr. Metz gave addresses there, the former speaking twice. The party left on Wednesday, May 13 for Rila Monsatery, going thence to Strumnitza and Salonica. Mr. Markham accompanied them as far as Strumnitza.

Mr. Agamemnon Schliemann, son of the famous archaeologist, has been appointed Hellenic Minister to Washington.

We have received a copy of the weekly *Mith*, an advertising agency published in Tabriz, Persia, the only such agency for Persia and the Caucasus. Its manager is Mr. Mihran Baghdasarian, who is connected with the American Consulate in Tabriz.

President Woodrow Wilson sent an autograph letter to the London Central Y.M.C.A. congratulating it on the occasion of its seventieth birthday.

It is announced that the proposed visit of Queen Eleonore of Bulgaria to the United States has been postponed till political affairs are in a more settled condition.

It is reported that the Corfu Conference on the Epirote rising has reached a favorable conclusion, Albania having conceded the demands of the Epirotes to such a degree as to satisfy the latter. We trust this news is true.

Tampico has fallen into the hands of the Mexican rebels, and the Huertists are much disheartened. The mediation conference begins today at Niagara Falls.

NOTICES.

The song-cycle, "In a Persian Garden," by Liza Lehmann given recently at Robert College by a mixed quartet under the direction of Dr. E. J. Fisher, will be repeated at Arnaout-keuy, in Gould Hall, next Tuesday afternoon at four o'clock and also in the Robert College chapel on Wednesday, May 27th, at 8:30 p. m.

The Report of the Student Volunteer Convention at Kansas City, Dec. 31, 1913, to Jan. 4, 1914, a book of over 600 pages, substantially bound in cloth, containing a verbatim report of the addresses delivered at the Convention, a summary of the section conferences, and other valuable material, will be sent to any address carriage prepaid for \$1.50. A special offer is made to missionaries, for a limited period, of the same book for \$1.00. Orders may be sent to Secretary E. O. Jacob, Bible House, Constantinople, or direct to the Student Volunteer Movement, 600 Lexington Ave., New York.

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